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(54) **METHOD OF RESOLVING DATA CONFLICTS IN A SHARED DATA ENVIRONMENT**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and system for automatically resolving data conflicts in a shared data environment where a plurality of users can concurrently access at least portions of a master data file is presented. Users process data files by means of local copies of a master data file. When an attempted update of a master data file with an edited data file from a user is detected, the updating file is analyzed to determine if any changes made are in conflict with changes made to the master data file by a second user. If a conflict is detected, it is resolved by merging the updating file into the master file according to a predefined set of rules. For conflicts which are not resolved by rule-based reconciliation, at least one user is notified of the conflict and presented with conflict resolving information and the conflict is resolved according to user input.

37 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets